

# Guugu Yalandji language

**Guugu Yalandji** (Kuku-Yalanji) is an Australian Aboriginal language of Queensland. It is the traditional language of the Kuku Yalanji people. Despite conflicts between the Kuku Yalanji people and British settlers in Queensland, the Kuku Yalanji language has a healthy number of speakers, and that number is increasing. Though the language is threatened, the language use is vigorous and children are learning it in schools. All generations of speakers have positive language attitudes. The Kuku Yalanji still practice their traditional religion, and they have rich oral traditions. Many people in the Kuku Yalanji community also use English. 100 Kuku Yalanji speakers can both read and write in Kuku Yalanji.

Contents
<b>Phonology</b>
Vowels
Consonants
<b>References</b>
<b>External links</b>

## Phonology

### Vowels

Kuku-Yalanji uses the typical three-vowel system, /a, u, i/, used in other Aboriginal Australian languages.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Consonants

This table uses the standard orthography used by both linguists and the speech community. Stop sounds can range between voiced and voiceless releases. Where the orthography differs from the IPA representation, the orthography is **bolded**.<sup>[5]</sup>

Guugu Yalandji	
Region	Queensland
Ethnicity	Kuku Yalanji, Yungkurara, Kuku Nyungkal, Kokobididji, Kokobujundji, Kokokulunggur, Kokowalandja, Wakara, Wakaman? (possibly the wrong 'Wakaman'), Djankun, Muluridji, ?Wulpura
Native speakers	323 (2016 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Pama–Nyungan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Paman?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yalanjic or Yimidhirr–Yalanji–Yidinic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Guugu Yalandji</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Dialects	Kuku-Yalanji Kuku-Njungkul Kuku-Bididji Kuku-Dungay Kuku-Buyundji Kuku-Kulunggur Kuku-Yalaja (Kuku-Yelandji) Koko-Walandja (Kuku-)Wakura (Kuku-)Wakaman (Kuku-)Djangun (Kuku-)Muluridji Kuku-Jakandji <sup>[2]</sup>
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously:

	<b>Labial</b>	<b>Alveolar</b>	<b>Retroflex</b>	<b>Palatal</b>	<b>Velar</b>
<b>Stop</b>	<b>b</b> /p ~ b/	<b>d</b> /t ~ d/		<b>j</b> /c ~ j/	<b>g</b> /k ~ g/
<b>Nasal</b>	<b>m</b> /m/	<b>n</b> /n/		<b>ny</b> /ɲ/	<b>ng</b> /ŋ/
<b>Approximant</b>	<b>w</b> /w/	<b>l</b> /l/	<b>r</b> /ɭ/	<b>y</b> /j/	
<b>Trill</b>		<b>rr</b> /r/			

## References

1. "Census 2016, Language spoken at home by Sex (SA2+)" ([http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS\\_C16\\_T09\\_SA](http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_C16_T09_SA)). *stat.data.abs.gov.au*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved 29 October 2017.
2. Dixon, RMW (2002). *Australian Languages: Their Nature and Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. xxxii.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Yalandic" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/yala1261>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Y78 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Y78>) Guugu Yalandji at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
5. Patz, Elisabeth (2002). *A Grammar of the Kuku Yalanji Language of North Queensland* (<http://sealang.net/archives/pl/pdf/PL-527.pdf>) (PDF). Pacific Linguistics 527. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. doi:10.15144/pl-527 (<https://doi.org/10.15144%2Fpl-527>). hdl:1885/146148 (<http://hdl.handle.net/1885%2F146148>). ISBN 978-0-85883-534-4.

	gvn – Kuku-Yalanji djf – Djangun vmu – Muluridy
<b>Glottolog</b>	yala1261 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/yala1261">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/yala1261</a> ) <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>AIATSIS</b> <sup>[4]</sup>	Y78 ( <a href="https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Y78">https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Y78</a> )

## External links

- Bibliography of Gugu Yalandji people and language resources ([http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/kuku\\_yalanji\\_gugu\\_yalandji.pdf](http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/kuku_yalanji_gugu_yalandji.pdf)), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Bibliography of Gugu Djangun people and language resources ([http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/gugu\\_djangun\\_djungan\\_gugu\\_dyangu\\_n\\_apr15.pdf](http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/gugu_djangun_djungan_gugu_dyangu_n_apr15.pdf)), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Bibliography of Gugu Gulunggur people and language resources ([http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/gugu\\_gulunggur.pdf](http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/gugu_gulunggur.pdf)), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Bibliography of Gugu Muluriji people and language resources ([http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language\\_bibs/mularidji\\_gugu\\_muluriji.pdf](http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/mularidji_gugu_muluriji.pdf)), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Bibliography of Gugu Wakura people and language resources ([http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/gugu\\_wakura\\_kuku\\_wagara.pdf](http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/gugu_wakura_kuku_wagara.pdf)), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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